

Monday, December 17, 2007

Eric Taylor, Transportation Planner  
DOT&PF Division of Program Development  
PO Box 112500  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2500

RE: Public Comments  
Draft Statewide Long Range Transportation Policy Plan

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As you prepare final edits to the "draft" Statewide Long Range Transportation Policy Plan (2030 Plan), I encourage the department to review the brief paragraph on page 38 entitled "Ports and Harbors."

While the paragraph is technically correct in that most facilities are owned & operated at the community level, I feel that a twenty year transportation plan should envision more than simply stating the current status quo.

Alaska is unique among the fifty states in many ways. One particularly dramatic difference is our 30,000 mile coastline. The next twenty years will see continued development of offshore fishery resources and quite likely oil & gas development. This potential activity, in federal waters, will be greatly enhanced through the availability of safe, modern port & harbor facilities.

Perhaps the 2030 final plan could develop this perspective, at the least to "advocate" for a sustainable federal investment program, possibly channeling offshore leasing revenue for shoreside development programs such as ports & harbors or coastline monitoring and debris cleanup.

Thanks you your consideration,

  
John Walsh

